Media Centers Kick Up a New Pace!

Vigo County School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Vigo County School Corporation, located in Terre Haute, Indiana, is a mixture of rural, urban, and suburban populations with a 14,906 student enrollment student enrollment. The VCSC has 18 elementary schools, five middle schools, and five high schools.

OUR STUDENTS The free/reduced lunch rate is 54.7%, and the special education rate is 19.4%. The VCSC provides ELL support to 187 limited English students (1.3%) representing 35 different languages.

OUR TEACHERS Each K-12 school has a media specialist. The teachers work directly with the students to bridge content and media standards.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Our elementary media specialist pacing guide focuses on informational text, writing, research, and technology skills with science as a theme.

Each week, every K-5 student comes to the media center for a 40 minute Encore, or "special" time. Middle school media specialists and grade 6-8 Social Studies teachers co-teach a one-week lesson integrating informational text, writing, research, social studies, and technology skills per grading period.

These promising practices strengthen our K-8 students with diverse skills and prepare them for the rigors of standardized assessment and college and career standards. The VCSC media specialist pacing guides, under which our K-8 media specialists teach, provide our increasing transient student population with high, consistent expectations and enriching lessons in science and social studies content areas. The exciting part of this collaboration is that an added emphasis is placed on science and social studies, subjects that have been marginalized due to an increased accountability focus on language arts and mathematic requirements.

OUR STEPS

In 2012-13, the elementary media specialists and district curriculum team members developed their pacing guide and made revisions in 2014. In 2014-15, the middle school media specialists developed their pacing guide along with district support. Professional development continues to strengthen both programs.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

The VCSC district intervention coach, a veteran 30-year VCSC media specialist stated, "In a time when many Hoosier districts are replacing full-time library/media specialists with paraprofessionals, Vigo County School Corporation leads the way with the belief that having these special area teachers is indeed impacting our elementary and secondary schools effectively."

For more information about our VCSC media centers, please email: Curriculum Coordinator, Janet Brosmer, at <u>irb@vigoschools.org</u>.